

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 1 to 19 have been canceled without prejudice and new claims 20 to 32 submitted.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, in view of Katz alone or in view of Saueressig and Rau.

Katz '478 shows a printing cylinder assembly with hydraulic chambers which act only at axial ends of the cylinder.

Saueressig shows a steel tube around cushion sections.

The present invention is directed to offset printing using a blanket cylinder, which is not disclosed in Katz or Saueressig.

Claims 1 to 19 have been canceled, and new claims 20 to 32 have been submitted which are directed solely to a blanket cylinder with a printing sock, or to a method of placing a printing sock over a blanket cylinder. The entire present specification, including the title and originally filed claims, support the new claims. See particularly but not solely [0018]-[0021].

Neither Katz nor Saueressig are directed to printing blankets, and have outer metal surfaces which could not be used as blankets for offset printing. Thus it also would not have been obvious to modify the Katz or Saueressig devices to be used as printing blankets.

Claims 20 and 30 now also recite a fluid supply unit altering the compressibility of the blanket cylinder, or the step of adjusting the compressibility.

An important feature of offset printing is the compressibility of the blanket cylinder, which permits proper ink transfer from a plate cylinder to a printing material, such as paper. See [0016], [0017], and [0021].



Other patents using the term “compressibility” as applied to blankets are, for example, found in the following:

PAT. NO.	Title
1 <u>6,615,721</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Method and device for manufacturing a tubular lithographic printing blanket</u>
2 <u>6,389,965</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Tubular printing blanket with tubular isotropic reinforcing layer</u>
3 <u>6,283,027</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Varying profile cylinder blanket</u>
4 <u>6,105,498</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Varying profile cylinder blanket</u>
5 <u>5,768,990</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Gapless tubular printing blanket</u>
6 <u>5,553,541</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Gapless tubular printing blanket</u>
7 <u>5,440,981</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Offset lithographic printing press including a gapless tubular printing blanket</u>
8 <u>5,323,702</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Gapless tubular printing blanket</u>
9 <u>5,304,267</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Method of making a gapless tubular printing blanket</u>
10 <u>5,245,923</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Printing press with movable printing blanket</u>
11 <u>5,215,013</u>	<b>T</b> <u>Printing blanket with noise attenuation</u>

The Office Action stated with respect to previous claim 14, that compressibility means “to press together.” It is respectfully submitted that this definition is unlikely, as “compressibility” is a property not a verb. Such a definition would make no sense with the present claims, and in any event neither Katz nor Saueressig show “a fluid supply regulation unit, the fluid supply regulation unit regulating a fluid pressure inside the at least one inflatable bladder to alter a ‘to press together’ of the blanket cylinder.”

Altering a compressibility of a blanket cylinder in light of the present specification means that the volume of the blanket cylinder (as clear from the inflatable bladders) may be reduced during printing so that an offset printing process can occur.

Neither Katz nor Saueressig show such compressibility.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, as is allowance of claims 20 to 32.



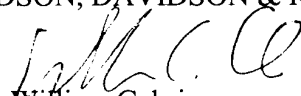
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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